

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2774

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, WA

SUBJECT: US VETO OF UNSC RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 259436

1. MET WITH PRESIDENT'S SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR, MANSOUR KHALID, OCT 21 IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. I GAVE HIM COPY OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S STATEMENT (STATE 258974) AND MADE TO HIM ALL POINTS PARAS 3-6 REFTE. KHALID LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM NIMEIRI. HE COMMENTED THAT, AS WE WERE AWARE, SUDAN BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN DILATORY AND UNRESPONSIVE TO UN ON NAMIBIA ISSUE AND THAT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE, IN FORM OF THE VETOED RESOLUTION, HAD SEEMED REQUIRED TO MOVE THE ISSUE ALONG. THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT FONSEC CROSSLAND TOLD PARLIAMENT OCT 20 THAT EXISTING ARMS EMBARGO ON RHODESIA SHOULD FOR PRESENT BE CONTINUED.

2. I REPLIED THAT RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN ISSUES WERE NOT ENTIRELY PARALLEL. AS DEPT INSTRUCTIONS MADE CLEAR, WE WERE IN DELICATE STAGE OF SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA ISSUE. PASSAGE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION COULD ONLY HAVE SET BACK THIS EXERCISE BY JEOPARDIZING SOUTH AFRICA'S ABILITY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS REQUIRED. OUR VETO ACTION, FAR FROM SUGGESTING A DEPARTURE FROM OUR CURRENT SERIOUS EFFORTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, WAS DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION THAT WAS IN
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THE GENERAL INTEREST. MOREOVER, USG HAD ALREADY BEEN OBSERVING

UNILATERAL ARMS EMBARGO VIS-A-VIS SOUTH AFRICA FOR JLMOST A DECADE. KHALID REPLIED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS FRANCE, WERE NOT OBSERVING SIMILAR EMBARGO AND THAT A RESOLUTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO BUILD UP GREATER PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE BACKGROUND TO OUR RECENT VETO, ABOUT WHICH HE HAD EARLIER BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY AWARE.

3. COMMENT. BELIEVE INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL WILL BE HELPFUL IN MUTING ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM OUR VETO ACTION, ALTHOUGH SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS (KHARTOUM 3075) PRIVATELY CONTINUE SEEM TO FEEL A NEED TO BURNISH THEIR AFRICAN CREDENTIALS.
BREWER

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